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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [YM](#) [COUNTER](#) [TERRORISM](#)

SUBJECT: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NOMAN ON RAMADAN RELEASES

Classified By: DCM Nabeel Khoury for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (S/NF) Pol/Econ chief discussed pending Ramadan prisoner releases with Deputy Foreign Minister Mustafa Noman on October 27. Thanking the ROYG for providing the USG a list of potential Ramadan releases in advance, Pol/Econ Chief urged Noman to continue in this cooperative vein by taking seriously USG objections to the release of 30 of the list of 138 pending further investigations into their al-Qaida connections. She noted that Hadi Dulqum and Jaber al-Banna were of special concern to the USG, and that their unilateral release would cast a shadow on our partnership in the GWOT.

2. (S/NF) Noman acknowledged the seriousness of the issue. The Dulqum case is particularly sensitive, said the DFM, "I don't see how we could ever try Dulqum." Pol/Econ Chief responded that al-Banna has been indicted in U.S. Federal Court for providing material support to al-Qaida, and Dulqum is a known and dangerous AQ supporter. We are asking that the ROYG not release them in the coming days and weeks and allow us to find a way to deal with their cases without any time constraints.

3. (S) Referring to upcoming TIFA talks, Noman lamented, "it's too bad we cannot keep security issues separate from economic development efforts." Pol/Econ chief agreed, confirming that his assessment was correct -- should the ROYG decide to proceed with plans to put known al-Qaida supporters back on the street, it would indeed have a detrimental impact, not just on security cooperation but possibly on our bilateral efforts across the board.

KRAJESKI